

CLAIMS:

I claim:

1. A method of rendering a mosaic image onto a surface of an object, the method comprising the acts of:
  - (a) generating digital data corresponding to a first image, the digital data being capable of being used and manipulated by image editing computer software;
  - (b) creating a template having grid cells containing a plurality of tones corresponding to a weighted value of tones contained in corresponding areas of the first image;
  - (c) rendering the template onto the surface of the object; and
  - (d) creating a mosaic image by covering the template with pieces of material, the pieces of material having a range of tones corresponding to the plurality of tones contained in the grid cells.
2. The method according to claim 1, whereby the first image is a photographic portrait and the generating act comprises scanning the photographic portrait.
3. The method according to claim 1, whereby the developing act comprises using digital image editing software to manipulate the digital data to create the template.
4. The method according to claim 3, whereby the template is printed onto a sheet of material.

5. The method according to claim 4, whereby the template is affixed to the surface of the object onto which the mosaic image is created.
6. The method according to claim 3, whereby the template is inscribed onto the surface of the object.
7. The method according to claim 1, whereby the pieces of material comprise veneer woods.
8. The method according to claim 7, whereby the veneer woods are selected from the group consisting of maple, birdseye maple, eucalyptus, pear, cherry, walnut, French walnut, and ebony.
9. The method according to claim 1, whereby the size of each grid cell, the number of grid cells, and the number of tones are selected so that the mosaic image is recognizable to a viewer as corresponding to the first image.
10. A method of creating a mosaic image on a surface of an object, the method comprising the acts of:
  - (a) generating digital data corresponding to a first image, the digital data being capable of being used and manipulated by image editing computer software;
  - (b) creating a template having grid cells containing a plurality of tones corresponding to a weighted value of tones contained in corresponding areas of the first image;

- (c) creating a mosaic image by covering the template with pieces of material, the pieces of material having a range of tones corresponding to the plurality of tones contained in the grid cells.
- (d) adhering or laminating the covered side of the material covered template against a surface of the object; and
- (e) removing the template from the adhered or laminated materials.